SWAMP THING

DC

FIRST STARTLING ISSUE

SWAMP THING

20¢

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 1
NOV.
30686

FAMOUS NAME

PRIZES OR CASH

THE EASY WAY!

FREE SAMPLE CARDS — OLYMPIC — EARN $1.00 A BOX

CUT OUT • FILL IN • MAIL NOW • NO STAMP NEEDED

FIRST CLASS
Permit No. 38
ENFIELD
CONNECTICUT

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NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN U.S.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY

Olympic
SALES CLUB, INC.
DEPT. 72NC8
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082

FROM
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____

YOU CAN GET THESE and many, many other big prizes — or cash — simply by selling beautiful Olympic IMPRINTED CHRISTMAS AND ALL-OCCASION CARDS. The Olympic way is the IN way! Here's why . . .

OLYMPIC SAMPLE BOOK IS FREE! It contains samples of fast-selling Olympic cards — and it's yours to keep. We don't send you boxes of cards in advance. With Olympic, you never have to worry about paying for, or returning, boxes you don't sell.

OLYMPIC CARDS ARE IN! The Imprinted Christmas Cards and the All-Occasion Cards are of such high quality they practically sell themselves. All you do is show your attractive Sample Book to friends, relatives, neighbors . . . and take their orders. Olympic cards sell for only $2.95 a box — and they're worth much more! Sell enough boxes to get all the prizes you want — or keep $1.00 per box.

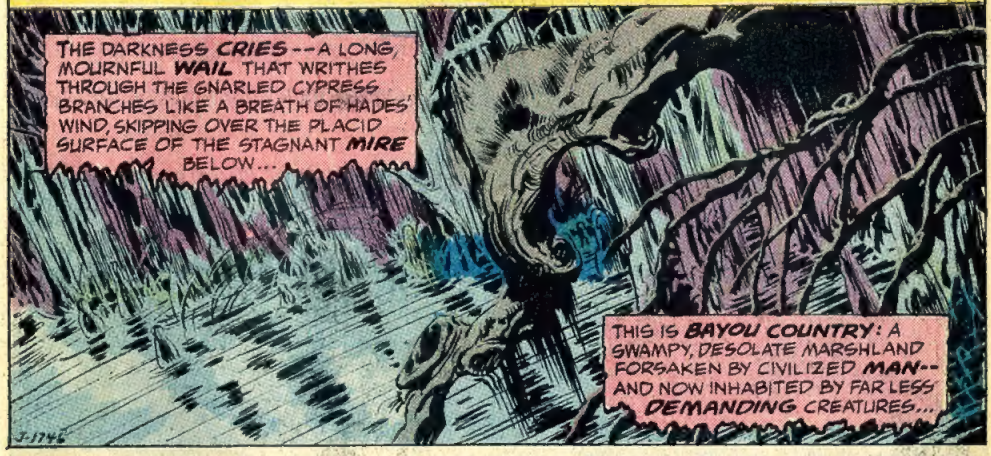
IT'S EASY TO JOIN OLYMPIC! Just fill in and mail the postcard! No postage is required. We'll send you the free Sample Book, free Membership Card and free Catalog of Prizes. There's ABSOLUTELY NO COST TO YOU! Don't wait! Join now! It's easy!

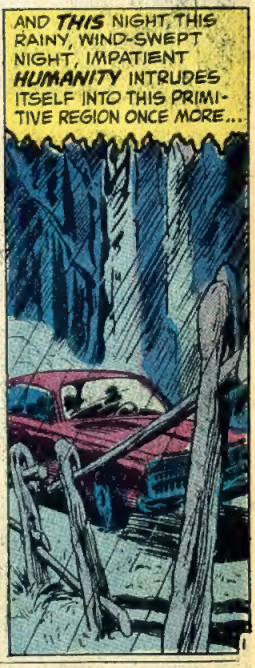
BE FIRST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
DON'T DELAY! JOIN NOW! MAIL POSTCARD TODAY!

OLYMPIC SALES CLUB, INC., DEPT. 72NC8, ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082

BEGINNING--A **NEW** KIND OF GRAPHIC EXCITEMENT--

THE SAGA OF THE SWAMP THING!





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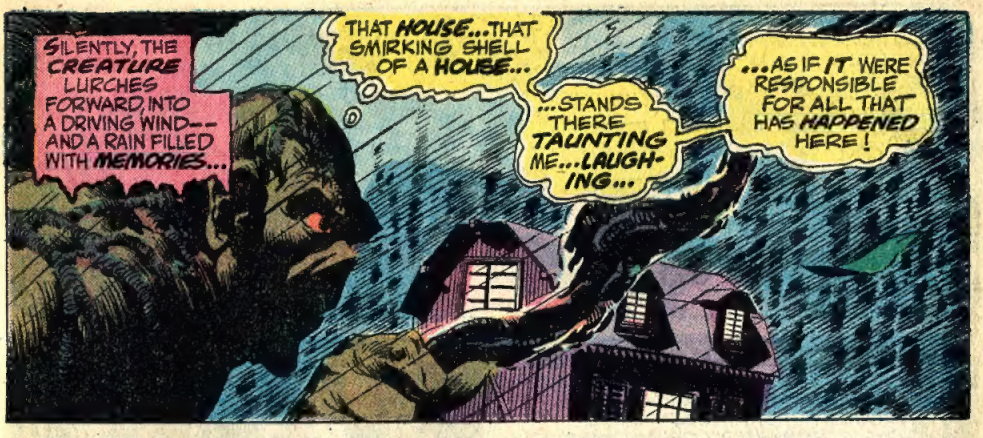
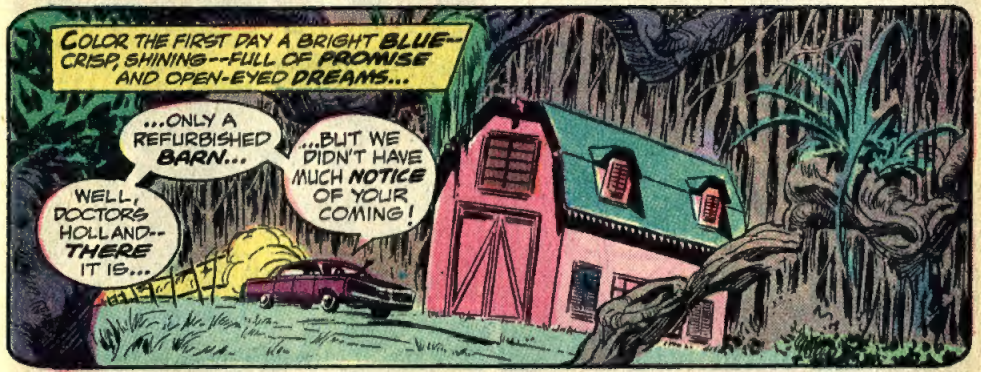
HUMANITY--AND SOMETHING FAR LESS THAN HUMAN!
THE MISSHAPEN MONSTROSITY PRESSES DEEPER INTO THE SHADOWS SURROUNDING THE SINGLE WOODEN STRUCTURE THAT RISES FROM THE BOG...
...AND HIS PUZZLED MIND FAIRLY CRACKLES WITH THOUGHT...
DARK GENESIS!
A NEW DC COMICS CONCEPT!
WRITTEN BY: LEN WEIN
ILLUSTRATED BY: BERNI WRIGHTSON
EDITED BY: JOE ORLANDO
THEY WILL RETURN... THOSE WHO KILLED ME! THEY WILL RETURN...
...AND I WILL BE WAITING!


SILENTLY, THE CREATURE LURCHES FORWARD, INTO A DRIVING WIND--AND A RAIN FILLED WITH MEMORIES...
THAT HOUSE...THAT SMIRKING SHELL OF A HOUSE...
...STANDS THERE TAUNTING ME...LAUGHING...
...AS IF IT WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED HERE!


COLOR THE FIRST DAY A BRIGHT BLUE--CRISP, SHINING--FULL OF PROMISE AND OPEN-EYED DREAMS...
...ONLY A REFURBISHED BARN...
...BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH NOTICE OF YOUR COMING!
WELL, DOCTORS HOLLAND--THERE IT IS...

WE UNDERSTAND, LT. CABLE--WASHINGTON WANTS TO KEEP OUR PRESENCE HERE TOP-SECRET!
SEEMS WE'RE PRIORITY-ONE MERCHANDISE!
ALEC, PLEASE--YOU MAKE US SOUND LIKE SOMETHING AT A SHOPPER'S SALE!
MAYBE YOU ARE, MRS. HOLLAND...

...THE WORK YOU TWO ARE DOING IN BIO-RESTORATIVE RESEARCH IS INVALUABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE STASHING YOU HERE--IN THIS SUBURB OF NOWHERE...
...TO KEEP YOU OUT OF THE HANDS OF OTHER PROSPECTIVE "SHOPPERS"!

OH, BY THE WAY— IF YOU HEAR TRAFFIC, DON'T LET IT SPOOK YOU...
...THERE'LL BE A PATROL CAR IN THE AREA CONSTANTLY!
WOULDN'T WANT TO LOSE THE "MERCHANDISE"!
ALEC, LET'S GO INSIDE--!
GLEAMING NEW DOOR HINGES WHINE OPEN AS THE HUSBAND-WIFE RESEARCH TEAM ENTERS THE RESURRECTED STABLE--THEIR VOICES ECHOING HOLLOW AMONG THE RAFTERS...
THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING, DIDN'T THEY? WE'VE GOT ENOUGH EQUIPMENT HERE FOR A DOZEN DR. FRANKENSTEINS!
SEEMS ALMOST A SHAME WE'RE NOT BUILDING A MONSTER!
SILLY! I ONLY HOPE THEY REMEMBERED TO STOCK A REFRIGERATOR!
...BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, THIS LITTLE SCIENTIST IS STARVING!

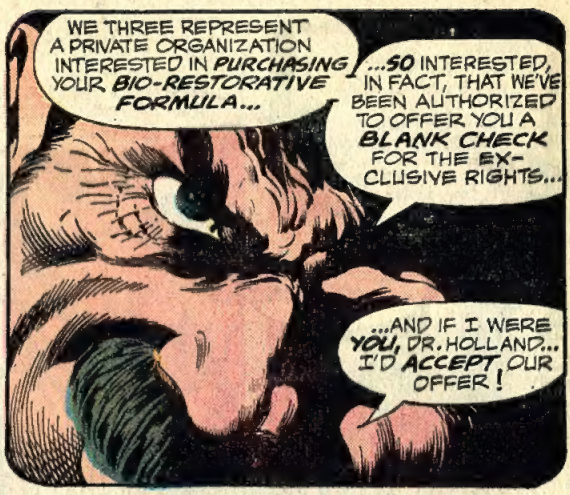
EVENING, A FEW DAYS LATER--AND THE PROJECT IS WELL UNDER WAY...
WELL, SWEETHEART--WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ARE WE READY TO TRY IT?
THEORETICALLY, YES--BUT I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO QUOTE ME!
I HATE TO BE PROVEN WRONG!

BUT IF WE'RE RIGHT, LARGER QUANTITIES OF OUR CHEMICAL WILL BE USED TO CREATE GARDENS OUT OF SWELTERING DESERTS...
...AND THAT IS DEFINITELY WORTH THE EFFORT!

WELL--CAN I QUOTE YOU NOW?

THE COMPOUND WORKED BETTER THAN...
UH, OH--OL' MATT CABLE AT THE DOOR!
WE'D BETTER LET HIM IN, LINDA!
KNOK!
KNOK!

DR. HOLLAND? MY NAME IS FERRETT!
MY ASSOCIATES AND I WOULD LIKE A WORD WITH YOU IF WE COULD...
...IN PRIVATE!



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Kenner's.

SSP SUPER SONIC POWER™

RRRR-RRRRRR

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?

SONIC SOUND MODEL

WOW!

RRR-RRRRRR

WHAM

IT'S THE NEWEST SSP™ IDEA... A HERK ACTION STUNT SET!

SET UP CAESAR'S SNAP-TOGETHER COLUMNS

PULL -- TRY TO GET HERK TO JUMP...

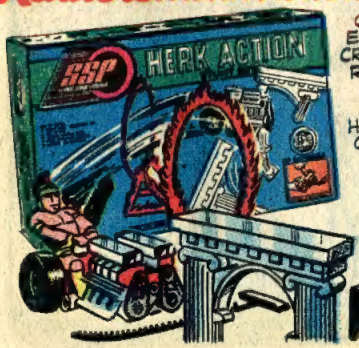
ZOWIE!

...THRU THE RING OF FIRE AND...

DID IT!!

...BETWEEN THE COLUMNS! THE SKILL AND THRILLS ARE YOURS!

Kenner's. HERK ACTION STUNT SET



COMES WITH EVERYTHING TO CREATE EXCITING ROMAN CIRCUS THRILLS!

HERK STUNT MAN, CAESAR'S COLUMNS, THAT SMASH APART AND SNAP BACK TOGETHER, RING OF FIRE, JUMP RAMP AND T-STICK.

OTHER SSP™ STUNT MEN WITH SONIC SOUND AND T-STICK AVAILABLE SEPARATELY!

MOVIN' MARVIN

KNIGHT RIDER

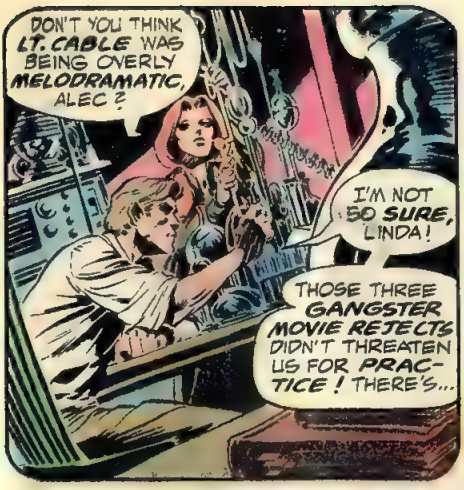
THE SOUND OF ONE CAR MOTOR DIES AWAY TO BE REPLACED BY THE ROAR OF ANOTHER... THEN...
SORRY I'M LATE-- BUT THE PATROLMAN THOUGHT HE SAW AN UNREGISTERED CAR IN THE AREA...
CABLE! IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE!
...WE WERE CHECKING IT OUT!

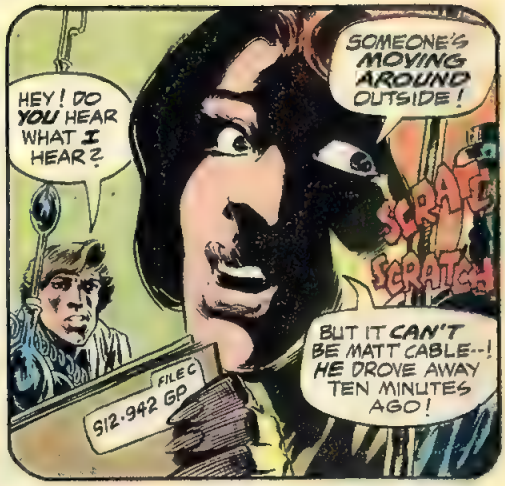
WELL, YOU SHOULD HAVE CHECKED HERE FIRST!
WHAT--? AND YOU LET THEM GET AWAY?
THREE VERY UN-FRIENDLY PEOPLE WERE JUST HERE-- ATTEMPTING TO BUY OUR FORMULA!
YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTIFIED THE PATROL GUARD IMMEDIATELY.

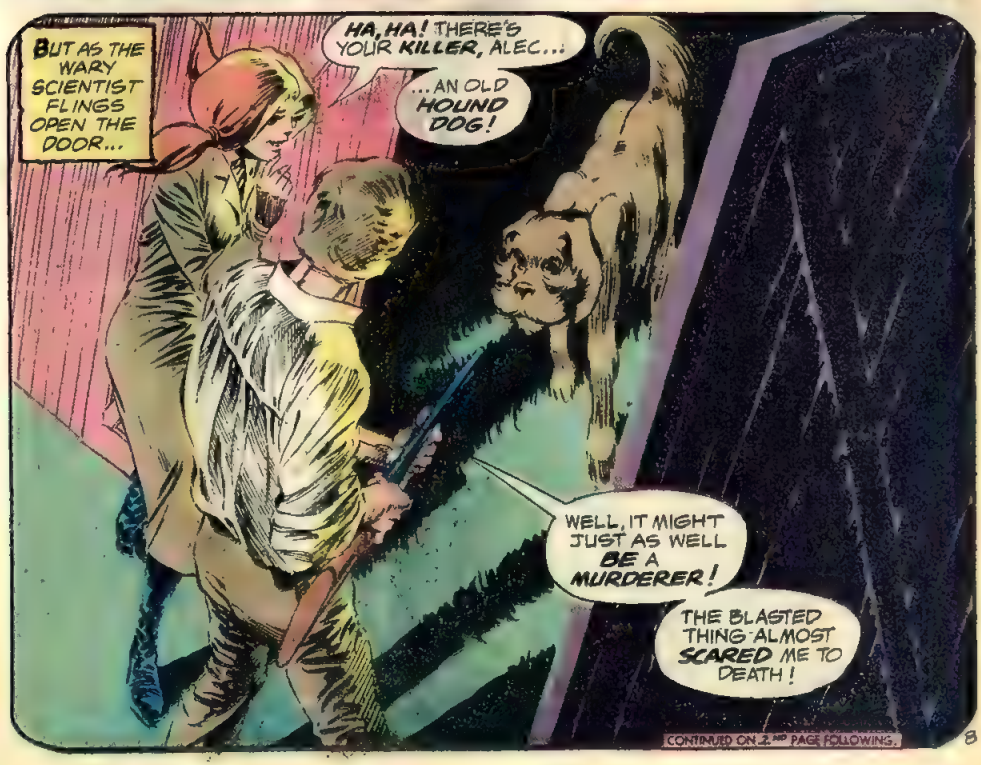
AFRAID WE WERE A TRIFLE BUSY AT THE TIME, LT.!
YEAH? WELL, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING...
...THAT CONVERSATION WE HAD ABOUT YOU TWO BEING MERCHANDISE WAS NO JOKE!
YOU'RE COMMODITIES, DOCTOR--YOU AND YOUR WIFE--TO BE BOUGHT, SOLD OR TRADED BY WHOEVER CAN MANAGE TO OWN YOU!

WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED HERE, DOCTOR--THE COUNTRY THAT CONTROLS YOUR FORMULA WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE WORLD!
THINK ABOUT THAT! THINK HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD DO ANYTHING TO HOLD YOUR SECRET IN THEIR HANDS--!

AND THINK HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD RATHER SEE YOU DEAD THAN TO LET THEIR ENEMIES HAVE YOUR FORMULA!
REMEMBER THAT, DOCTOR--THEY'D RATHER SEE YOU DEAD!
NEXT TIME YOU OPEN THAT DOOR, YOU'D BETTER KNOW WHO'S BEHIND IT!







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Bigger than life—Frankenstein, the man made monster. Giant 7 foot tall, his eyes glow eerily. In authentic color on durable polyethylene, as scary as your wildest nightmare.
No. 800 ..... $1.00

MONSTER-SIZE SKELETON

No F290 $1.00

THROW YOUR VOICE

Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist."
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This whistle can't be heard by human ears, but Rover can hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds.
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COMPLETE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR KIT

★ BADGE ★ CARRYING CASE
★ SPECIAL I. D. CARD

ONLY $2.75

This professional type detective badge kit and case includes an extra heavy silvered nickel badge for use by private and special investigators PLUS authentic-type case and I.D. Card. Impress your friends with this official looking novelty.
No. 860---- ----- -$2.75

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Deck is marked and stripped. Can be read from the back but looks like ordinary deck. With instructions for 10 terrific tricks.
No. 183 $1.98

SEE BEHIND GLASSES

A specially treated pair of sunglasses with secret mirrors that enable you to see behind you without anyone knowing that you're watching.
No. 30 ..... 75¢

THE BEAST

From 20,000 FATHOMS

This full size wall poster is terrifying enough to be beautiful. Your room or den NEEDS this famous movie favorite---complete with steely, glinting eyes, and man-eating teeth. There is also the terrible giant ape "King Kong" who terrified the country--a perfect companion for the "Beast
ITEM 639B....THE BEAST.....$1.00
ITEM 639K....KING KONG.....$1.00
ORDER BOTH for $1.75 and Save

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AN HILARIOUS OPTICAL ILLUSION

ONLY $1.00

Scientific optical principle really works. With Xray Specs you seem to be able to look through flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that nasty his body you "see" under his clothes?
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20 Course Home Study Program

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- 20 Best KARATE blows and chops
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- Nerve center anatomy chart
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MUSCLES OF STEEL

Results in just 30 days

Pocket gym steps inches of muscle on your arms and torso. Gives the respect of your friends—the admiration of the girls. Keep fit and healthy. Fear no one! Made of heavy rubber.
No. 7001 only $1.00

OVER 1000 FREE GIFTS YOURS FOR THE ASKING

This muscle book gives the addresses of associations, federal agencies, and manufacturers that are anxious to send you ABSOLUTELY FREE samples, manuals, and books. A fabulous treasure trove completely up to date which will bring you gifts worth many times its low price.
Item -80 50c

MONEYMAKER

Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knob . . . and . . OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a $5 then the $5 changes to $10
A128 1.00

ONION GUM

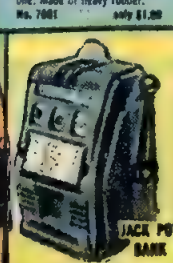
Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too funny! 5 slices to a pack.
No. 281 .20c

ONLY 3.98

Weighted Wristlets

"Power Packed" Arm Builders
To Give you mighty striking power

"Power Packed" wristlets build the power arms you want without special equipment or exercises. Just wear these rugged lead-weighted wristlets during your ordinary activities at work or play.
..#900..... $3.98

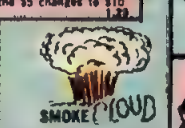


JACK POT BANK

Dime-operated, one armed Bandit" works like those in Las Vegas. Deposit dime, pull handle, and reels spin like the real thing. Dimes are removable. Should not be used for gambling.
No. 2000 $1.00

HOT PEPPER GUM

Lots of FUN passing out this apartment Gum with Hot Pepper added. Regulation pack, 5 sticks in color wrapped package to keep it fresh
A121 25¢



SMOKE CLOUD

Light one and watch the column of thick white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect
No. 971 20c

PHONY CAST

Imitation white plaster arm cast complete with arm sling. Looks like the real thing! Fits teenagers or adults.
A 4 $1.10

RAQUEL WELCH PILLOW

ONLY $1.98

What man wouldn't enjoy spending a night with Raquel Welch? Well, we can't deliver her but we can deliver that next best thing—a 12" x 24" initial pillow of Raquel made of rugged vinyl to serve as your headrest. Keep her for yourself or show her to your friends. Lively party when everyone sees and feels this great gag item.
BR15 ..... $1.98

SURPRISE PACKAGE

Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.
No. 678 Only 50c

Secret Spy Scope

PEN SIZE—CLIPS ON YOUR POCKET 6 POWER MAGNIFIER.

Six power pride field magnifier is great for watching sporting events, nature study, girl watching and counter spying. Also contains a 30 power microscope. Not a toy but a real optical instrument
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WEREWOLF HORROR MASK

This rubber mask is so grotesque that it is sure to shake up the whole neighborhood. Be the "Werewolf" that prowls again!
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WITH COMBINATION LOCK ONLY YOU CAN OPEN

Looks like any book to camouflage your valuables. Securely locked with your own private combination. Tough under-structure is covered with simulated leather binding
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Windup novelty you wear like a ring. Your victim gets a "SHOCKING" hand shake. Absolutely harmless.
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HONOR HOUSE PROD. CORP. DEPT. 66GK94
35 WILBUR ST., LYNBROOK, N.Y. 11563

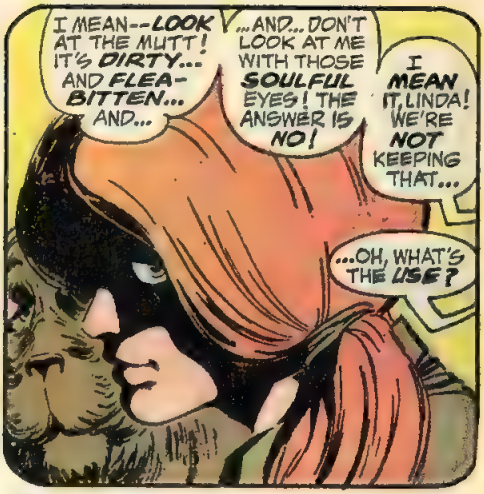
Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days FREE TRIAL for full refund of purchase price.
We cannot accept orders totaling less than $1.00.

NAME & NUMBER OF ITEM	HOW MANY	TOTAL PRICE

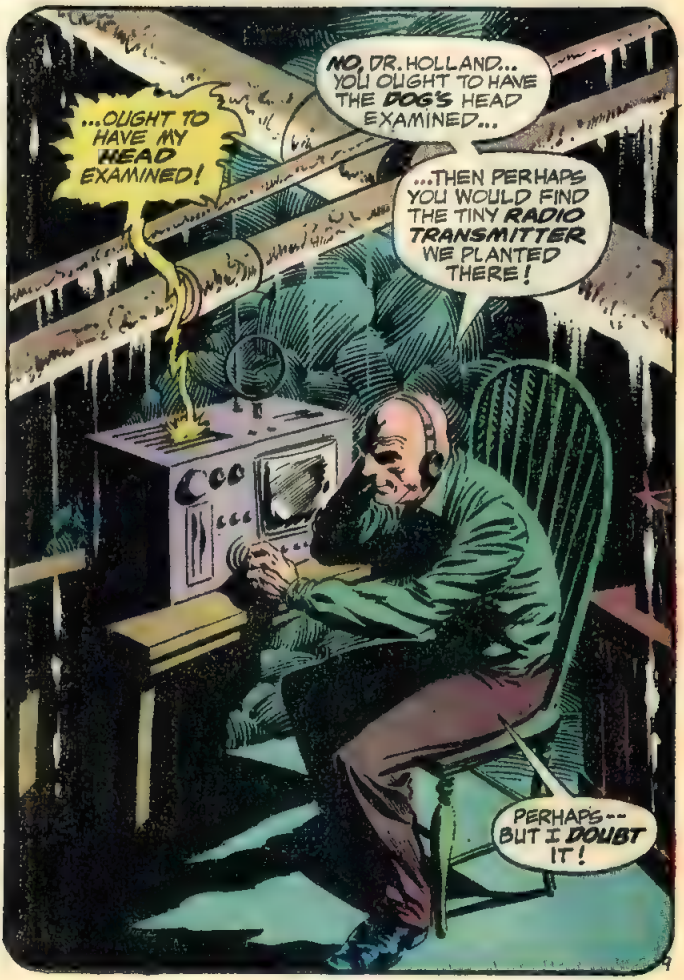
Please add 25c to total order for postage and handling.
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED
For COD orders please send 50c good will deposit. Pay postman the balance on delivery plus COD and handling charges.

NAME
ADDRESS ZIP
NY State residents add state and local sales tax.

ALEC, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
THE POOR DARLING LOOKS LOST AND HUNGRY!
CAN WE KEEP HIM?
ARE YOU KIDDING? WE'RE OFF-LIMITS...
...TO EVERYBODY!


I MEAN--LOOK AT THE MUTT! IT'S DIRTY... AND FLEA-BITTEN... AND...
...AND... DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE SOULFUL EYES! THE ANSWER IS NO!
I MEAN IT, LINDA! WE'RE NOT KEEPING THAT...
...OH, WHAT'S THE USE?

YOU KNOW--FOR A WOMAN SCIENTIST, YOU SURE FIGHT DIRTY!
YOU CAN HAVE THE SHAGGY MUTT...
...AND I OUGHT TO HAVE MY HEAD EXAMINED!


NO, DR. HOLLAND... YOU OUGHT TO HAVE THE DOG'S HEAD EXAMINED...
...OUGHT TO HAVE MY HEAD EXAMINED!
...THEN PERHAPS YOU WOULD FIND THE TINY RADIO TRANSMITTER WE PLANTED THERE!
PERHAPS--- BUT I DOUBT IT!

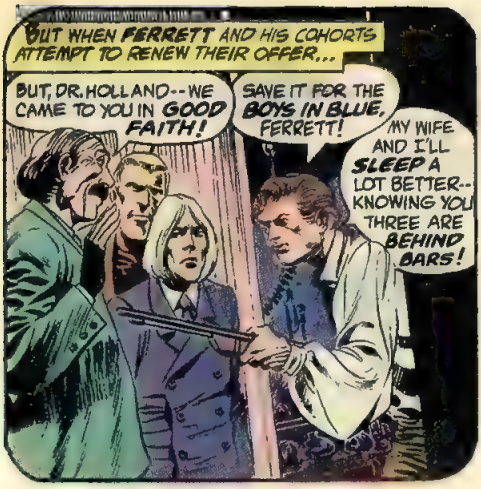
SEND FERRETT AROUND TO SEE THEM AGAIN--WITH A REPEAT OF OUR OFFER!

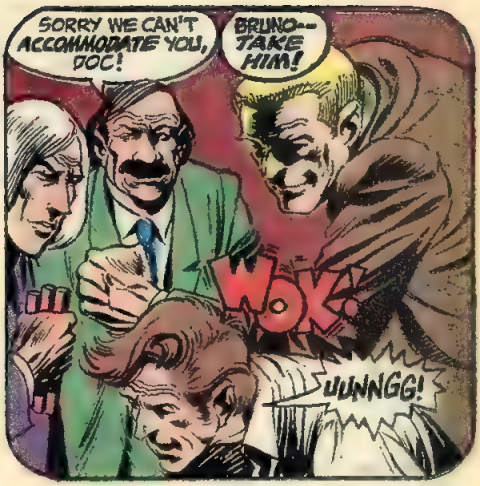
IF WE CAN GET THE FORMULA WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTY, ALL WELL AND GOOD--BUT IF NOT...

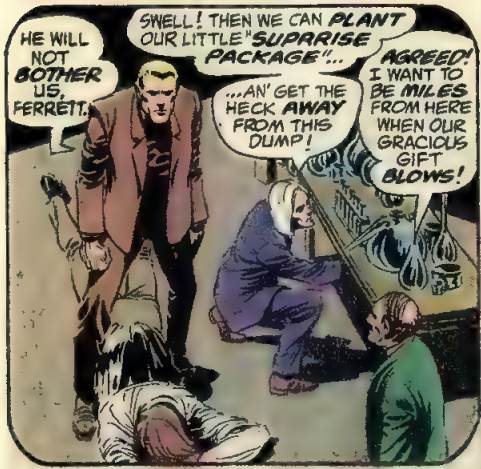
THE CONCLAVE HAS MANY ENTERPRISES THAT WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED BY OUTSIDE USE OF THAT COMPOUND...

THUS, IF WE CAN'T HAVE IT, NOBODY WILL!

THE HOLLANDS AND THEIR FORMULA MUST BE DESTROYED!


BUT WHEN FERRETT AND HIS COHORTS ATTEMPT TO RENEW THEIR OFFER...
BUT, DR. HOLLAND--WE CAME TO YOU IN GOOD FAITH!
SAVE IT FOR THE BOYS IN BLUE, FERRETT!
MY WIFE AND I'LL SLEEP A LOT BETTER--KNOWING YOU THREE ARE BEHIND BARS!


SORRY WE CAN'T ACCOMMODATE YOU, DOC!
BRUNO--TAKE HIM!
WOK!
UUNNGG!


HE WILL NOT BOTHER US, FERRETT.
SWELL! THEN WE CAN PLANT OUR LITTLE "SURPRISE PACKAGE"...
...AN' GET THE HECK AWAY FROM THIS DUMP!
AGREED! I WANT TO BE MILES FROM HERE WHEN OUR GRACIOUS GIFT BLOWS!

FOR A TIME, DARKNESS REIGNS--AND WHEN DR. ALEC HOLLAND CRAWLS OUT OF THE SHADOWLAND AT LAST...
UUNHH... FEELS LIKE THEY DROPPED A MOUNTAIN ON MY HEAD! THEY'VE...
HEY, SEEMS MY PLAYMATES HAVE DECIDED TO SKIP OUT!

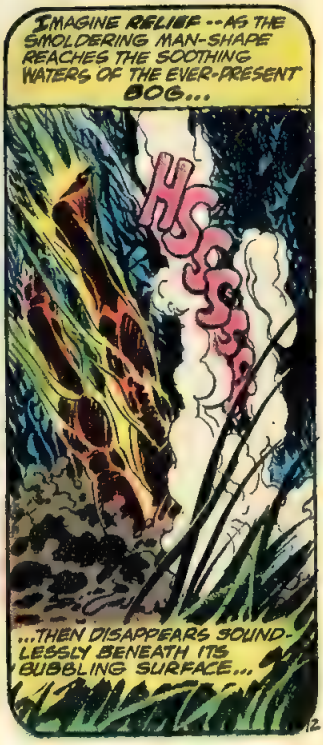
I WONDER WHY THEY...
OH... MY DEAR GOD!
THAT THING IS--TICKING!
TICK TICK TICK
TICK

GOTTA TRY TO DEFUSE IT BEFORE...
CRACK!
CLICK

BWAROOOOMM!

IMAGINE PAIN--SO INTENSE IT DEFIES DESCRIPTION--AS COUNTLESS UNCLASSIFIED CHEMICALS SEEP DEEP INTO THROBBING, FUME-ENVELOPED FLESH...
OH, MY GOD...
OH, MY DEAR, DEAR GOD--!

IMAGINE WHAT SUCH TERRIBLE SUFFERING CAN DO TO THE FRAGILE MIND...
...AS IT DRIVES THE STRICKEN BODY FORWARD, CLAWING DESPERATELY AT THE COOL NIGHT AIR IN HOPES OF SOME SMALL COMFORT...


IMAGINE RELIEF--AS THE SMOLDERING MAN-SHAPE REACHES THE SOOTHING WATERS OF THE EVER-PRESENT BOG...
HSSSSS
...THEN DISAPPEARS SOUNDLESSLY BENEATH ITS BUBBLING SURFACE...

A BITTER WIND WHISTLES PAST THE HANDFUL OF SADDENED FORMS WHO STAND TOGETHER BEFORE A FRESHLY-FILLED GRAVE...

P-POOR ALEC--! IF ONLY I HAD BEEN THERE--! MAYBE...

IT WOULDN'T HAVE HELPED, MRS. HOLLAND... LINDA...

...THE BOMB DESTROYED EVERY TRACE OF YOUR HUSBAND! IF YOU HAD BEEN THERE--

--IT WOULD'VE FINISHED YOU, TOO!

C'MON... LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE LAB!

LOOK AT THIS PLACE--SPOTLESSLY CLEAN!

YOU CAN HARDLY TELL A MAN DIED HERE A FEW DAYS AGO...

...A GOOD MAN... MY MAN...

...MY POOR, DEDICATED ALEC--!

THEY PUT IT BACK TOGETHER AS QUICKLY AS THEY COULD, LINDA...

...DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE ANY TIME ON THE PROJECT!

OF COURSE--THE PROJECT! THAT GOES ON, REGARDLESS... DOESN'T IT, CABLE?

NOBODY CARES ABOUT THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE OR DIE HERE...

...ONLY THE MISERABLE PROJECT!

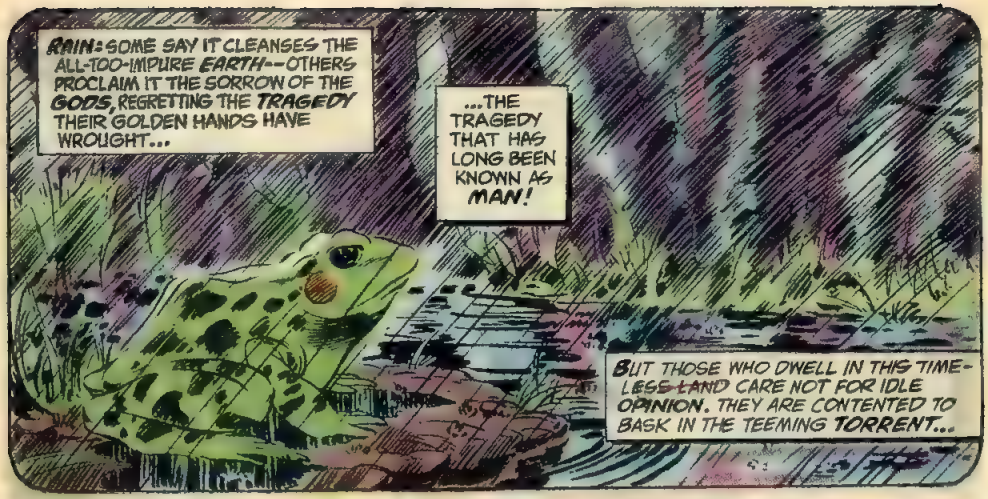
AFRAID SO, LINDA--BUT WITH ALEC GONE, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT WHO CAN HANDLE IT!

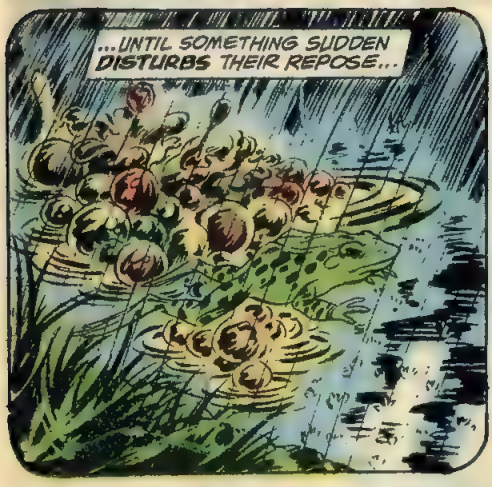
NOW WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF THE RAIN!

FUNNY--WHEN I WAS A KID, IT USED TO RAIN LIKE THIS--DARK, CHILLING...

AS IF THE SKY WERE ALIVE--AND LIVING, FELT PAIN!

IT FEELS THAT WAY AGAIN TONIGHT... AND, LADY, I DON'T LIKE IT!


RAIN: SOME SAY IT CLEANSES THE ALL-TOO-IMPURE EARTH--OTHERS PROCLAIM IT THE SORROW OF THE GODS, REGRETTING THE TRAGEDY THEIR GOLDEN HANDS HAVE WROUGHT...
...THE TRAGEDY THAT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AS MAN!
BUT THOSE WHO DWELL IN THIS TIMELESS LAND CARE NOT FOR IDLE OPINION. THEY ARE CONTENTED TO BASK IN THE TEEMING TORRENT...


...UNTIL SOMETHING SUDDEN DISTURBS THEIR REPOSE...

...SOMETHING THAT CLAWS ITS WAY OUT OF THE GRASPING MIRE...

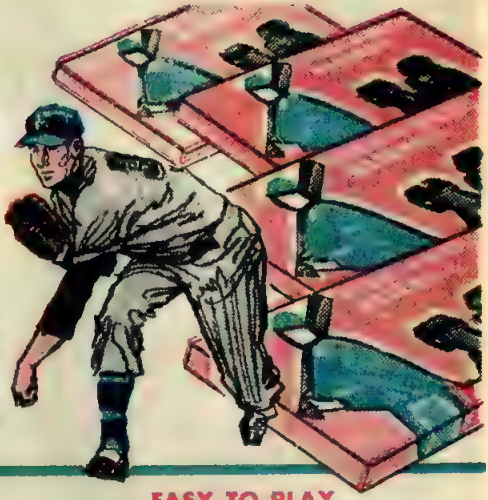
...AND INTO THE LIGHT ONCE MORE!

SOMETHING THAT PULLS ITSELF UPRIGHT ON UNSTEADY LEGS, SEARCHING ITS CLOUDY MIND FOR A FRAGMENT OF MEMORY...

...THEN PAUSES, STUDYING ITS GNARLED MISSHAPEN HANDS... EXAMINING THE CLUSTERS OF ROOT, THE CRUMBLING CHUNKS OF MOSS...

CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING

YOU can manage in the Majors with STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball.



As a STRAT-O-MATIC Major League Manager, you'll make the actual game-deciding moves Houk, Hodges, Alston, Weaver and Murtaugh make. You'll decide when to pinch-hit, play the infield in, change pitchers, signal for hit-and-run, bunt or hit away. Only STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL brings you so realistically face-to-face with the decisions a Big League Manager makes on the playing fields.

You're always arguing with that guy down the block about who can manage a Big League team better. Well now you can settle that argument under as close to real game conditions as you can find this side of a Major League dugout. And have great fun doing it playing STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball, the real-to-life game that uses actual big league players according to their proven abilities. It's strictly up to YOU to manage your players — to pull them together under your leadership into the most powerful team possible.

You know your baseball. What to expect from clutch-hitting Roberto Clemente with men on base. How to pitch to Willie Mays with Willie McCovey on deck. How the good control pitchers like Fergy Jenkins seem to get stronger in the late innings while "wild men" like Nolan Ryan tire. In STRAT-O-MATIC its up to you to get the most out of your players.

DO THINGS YOUR WAY

As you watch a game on TV, aren't there times when you disagree with the manager's decision? When you'd hold Tom Seaver back an extra day to match the Cardinal's Ace, Bob Gibson. Well STRAT-O-MATIC is your chance to play Big League baseball YOUR way.

As a STRAT-O-MATIC Manager, if you make the right decisions, you're going to win. That's because we've taken every possible statistic on 480 Big League players and put them into a computer. All this vital information is brought together on an individual performance card for EACH player. In STRAT-O-MATIC, a player performs as he does on the field. Brooks Robinson makes those incredible plays at third. Frank Howard hits them out of sight.

EASY-TO-PLAY

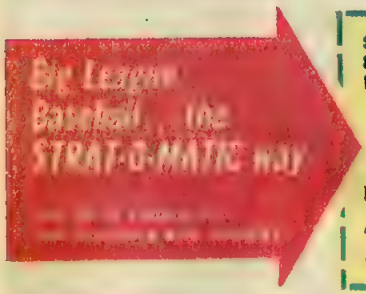
Sounds complicated? It's not. The computer does all the hard figuring. Playing STRAT-O-MATIC is easy. It's only the decisions that are hard. Should you hit and run with Boog Powell at bat. It reduces the chances of a groundball Double Play. But you take a chance on the free-swinging Powell taking a whiff as the runner is cut down at second. It's YOUR decision in STRAT-O-MATIC.

STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball begins when you make up your lineup. Would you go with Manager Spanky Anderson's day-to-day lineup for Cincinnati? Or would you slot Pete Rose in the important third place in the order rather than as lead-off? When, as Yankee Manager, is it time to yank Stan Bahnsen? Do you bring in McDaniel or Aker?

PLAY YOUR DREAM GAMES

Manage STRAT-O-MATIC against all the kids in the neighborhood. Play actual American and National League schedules. Play your inter-league "dream games" — Vida Blue on the mound for Oakland against the Mets with Tom Seaver. You can even pick your own ALL-STAR teams and manage them in a 7-game "World Series" rather than the inconclusive single game.

If you like Big League Baseball, you'll love STRAT-O-MATIC. And just playing it will help you to become a "headier" player yourself. Fill in the coupon and we'll mail you a colorful brochure explaining STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL in detail. It's free and includes free samples.



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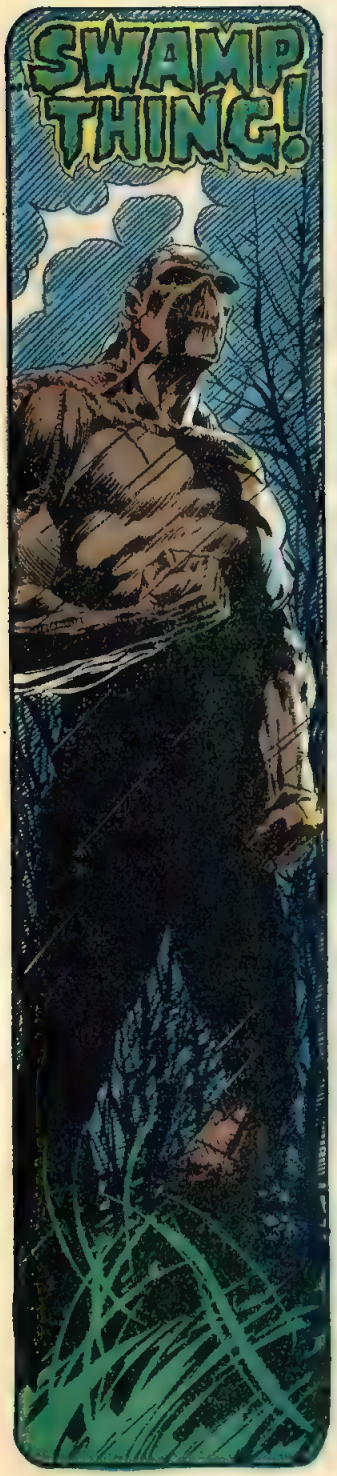
Please send me free brochure including samples of STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball.
I enclose 10 cents to cover postage and handling.

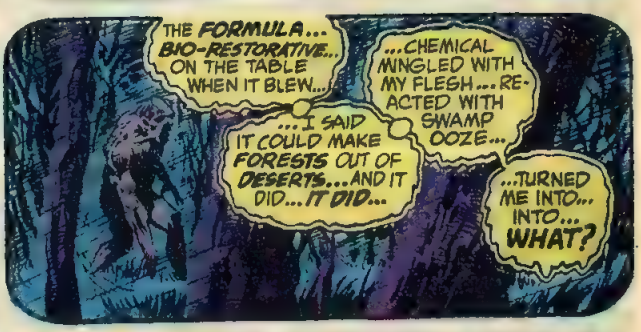
Name _____

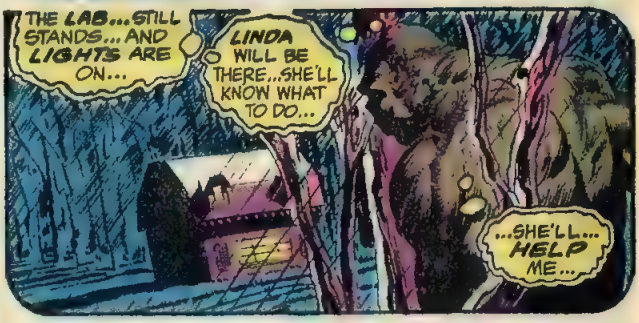
Address _____

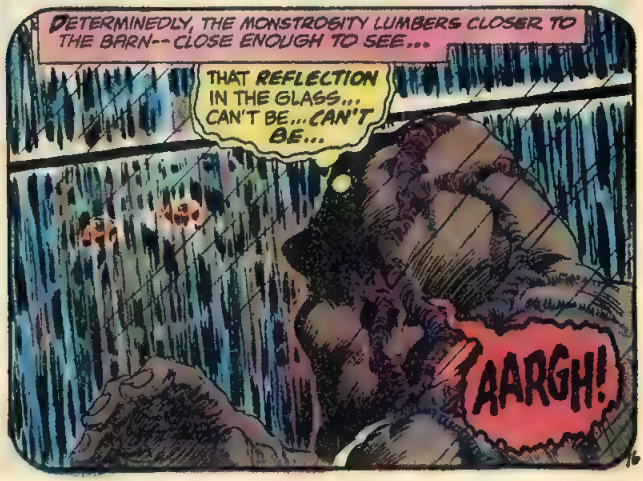
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

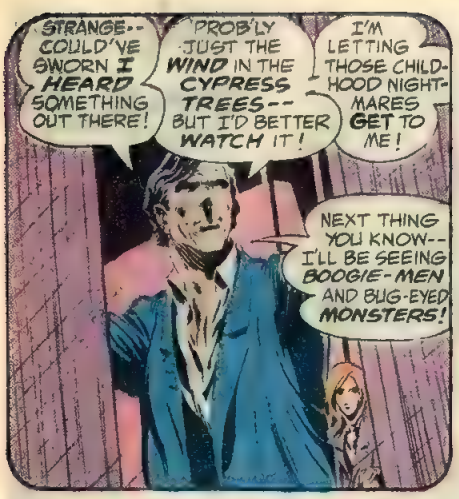

SWAMP THING!

BUT TRAVESTY THOUGH IT MAY BE, THE CREATURE BREATHES--AND THINKS...
MUST BE LOGICAL... MUST GATHER MY THOUGHTS...
EXPLOSION SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME... IT DIDN'T!
WHY? WHY?


THE FORMULA... BIO-RESTORATIVE... ON THE TABLE WHEN IT BLEW...
...I SAID IT COULD MAKE FORESTS OUT OF DESERTS... AND IT DID... IT DID...
...CHEMICAL MINGLED WITH MY FLESH... REACTED WITH SWAMP OOZE...
...TURNED ME INTO... INTO... WHAT?


THE LAB... STILL STANDS... AND LIGHTS ARE ON...
LINDA WILL BE THERE... SHE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO...
...SHE'LL... HELP ME...


DETERMINEDLY, THE MONSTROSITY LUMBERS CLOSER TO THE BARN--CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE...
THAT REFLECTION IN THE GLASS... CAN'T BE... CAN'T BE...
AARGH!

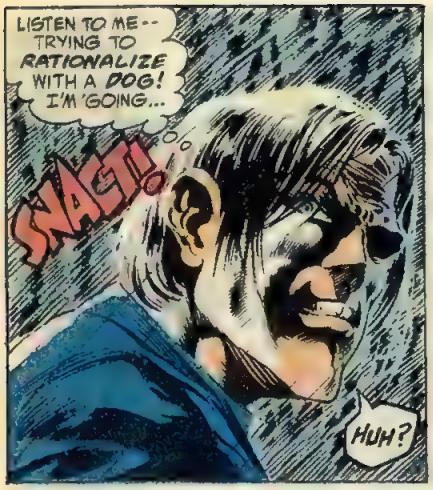

STRANGE-- COULD'VE SWORN I HEARD SOMETHING OUT THERE!
PROB'LY JUST THE WIND IN THE CYPRESS TREES-- BUT I'D BETTER WATCH IT!
I'M LETTING THOSE CHILD-HOOD NIGHT-MARES GET TO ME!
NEXT THING YOU KNOW-- I'LL BE SEEING BOOGIE-MEN AND BUG-EYED MONSTERS!

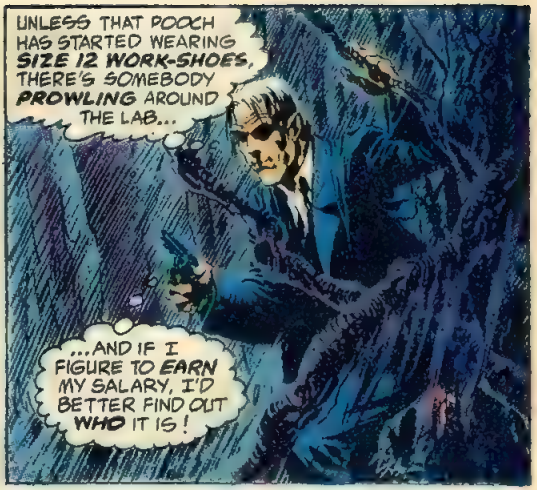
COULDN'T LET LINDA SEE ME... NOT THE WAY I AM!
...BETTER TO STAY IN THE SHADOWS... AND KEEP WATCH ON THE HOUSE!

THEY WILL BE BACK... THE ONES WHO THOUGHT THEY KILLED ME...
...FERRETT AND THE OTHERS WILL BE BACK...
...AND I WILL BE WAITING!

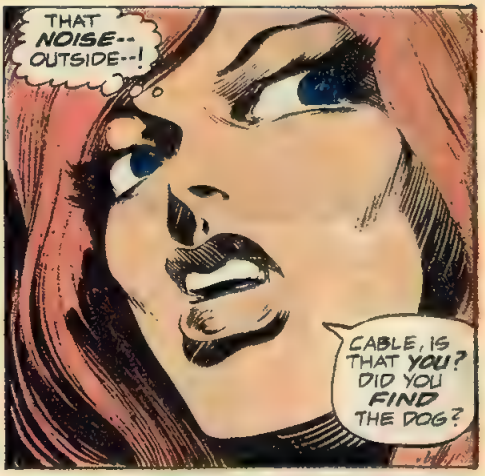
WAIT-- WAIT!! YOU SILLY DOG--COME BACK HERE! OHHHH--!
SAVE YOUR BREATH, LINDA--IT CAN'T HEAR YOU! GOT A FLEA IN ITS EAR, I GUESS!
I'LL GO FETCH IT--BUT I WANT YOU TO BOLT THE DOOR BEHIND ME WHILE I'M GONE!
RUN, DOG-- FOLLOW YOUR MASTER'S VOICE--!

UNAWARE OF THE SILENT COMMANDS DRAWING THE HOUND ONWARD, MATT CABLE MOVES THROUGH THE DOWNPOUR IN DETERMINED PURSUIT...
YOU STUPID MUTT-- WHERE ARE YOU?
COME BACK HERE BEFORE YOU KILL YOURSELF!
THERE ARE BOGS IN THIS AREA! THEY...


LISTEN TO ME-- TRYING TO RATIONALIZE WITH A DOG! I'M GOING...
SNAGT!
HUH?


UNLESS THAT POOCH HAS STARTED WEARING SIZE 12 WORK-SHOES, THERE'S SOMEBODY PROWLING AROUND THE LAB...
...AND IF I FIGURE TO EARN MY SALARY, I'D BETTER FIND OUT WHO IT IS!

BUT AS THE SECURITY OFFICER RETURNS TO THE LAB...
CRAK!
SORRY, MISTER-- BUT BRUNO HAS HIS ORDERS!


THAT NOISE-- OUTSIDE--!
CABLE, IS THAT YOU? DID YOU FIND THE DOG?

WHO--?
KRUMP
AFRAID YOUR FRIEND ISN'T GONNA BE FINDING ANYTHING FOR A WHILE, LITTLE LADY! BUT THAT'S OKAY...
...BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, YOU AND I HAVE THINGS TO DISCUSS...
...ALONE! HEH, HEH, HEH...

...ALONE...IS THERE A MORE TERRIBLE WORD? ALL THIS WAITING...ALONE... NO ONE TO TALK TO...
...IF I CAN TALK, THAT IS! I WONDER IF...
AWWOOOO
THERE'S... SOMETHING OUT THERE... IN THE BOO...

LINDA'S DOS... SINKING IN THE MIRE...!
HOLD ON, LITTLE ONE...I'LL GET YOU OUT...!
YIP! YIP!

BLAM!!
WOULDN'T WANT LINDA TO LOSE YOU, TOO! SHE'D...

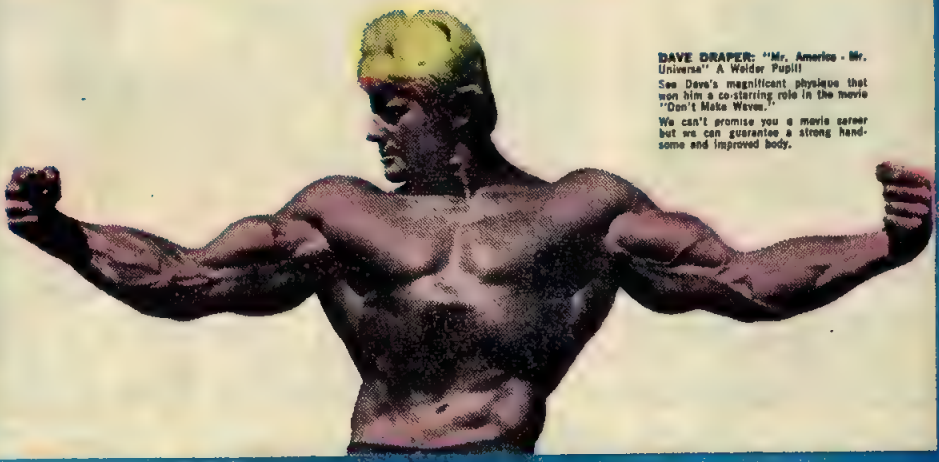
NOOOo!

LINDA... MY LINDA... IF THEY'VE HURT YOU...

THE LAB... GOT TO GET BACK TO THE LAB...
...MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE...

BUT WHEN THE SHAMBLING MONSTROSITY BURSTS INTO THE SILENT STRUCTURE...
LINDA!

WHAT DOES THIS CHAMPION HAVE IN COMMON...WITH YOU?



DAVE DRAPER: "Mr. America - Mr. Universe" A Weider Pupil!

See Dave's magnificent physique that won him a co-starring role in the movie "Don't Make Waves."

We can't promise you a movie career but we can guarantee a strong handsome and improved body.

HE ANSWERED A WEIDER AD—GAINED 3 INCHES ON HIS ARMS —4 INCHES ON HIS CHEST—IN 7 SHORT WEEKS! YOU TOO!

You, too—just like Dave Draper—can now own a handsome, muscular body—fast! You, too, can now finally follow the exact same instructions this champ did, and in just 15 minutes a day, in the privacy of your own home, you can begin to slap on 4 inches to your chest and 3 inches to each arm, give yourself lifeguard shoulders, muscularize your waist, get speedy legs, and exercise your entire body. The techniques are simple, there's nothing complicated, just downright enjoyable.

I don't care if, today you own the skinniest, flabbiest or most laughed at body—whether you're tall or short, young or not-so-young. If you send for my FREE 32-page booklet of muscle building information, I guarantee that you will experience a muscle building miracle; before your eyes, you will see handsome muscles start bursting out all over you. They will ripple with power, burst with energy—and for the first time in your life men will envy your body, women admire it, because at last you own a body that brings you fame instead of shame. Let me help you as I did other champions—who were also weaklings—to put an end to your weakness and shame. Write now for free information—you'll be so happy you did! After all, you have nothing to lose but your weakness!

A-C-T-I-O-N is the key to strength—make your first He-Man-Decision N-O-W! Fill out the coupon right now, rush it to me, and in hours I will send you absolutely free—at my own expense—the exact same muscle building information I sent to Dave Draper and numerous champions, and to over 5 million other successful students. I am known as the most successful trainer of champions. I have been turning weaklings into "Mr. Americas" and "Mr. Universes" successfully since 1936. Don't pass up this once-in-a-lifetime proven successful offer to trade in your body for the one you always dreamed of having. Remember, you will be following in the proven, safe, scientific footsteps of the World's Best Men. So hurry! Put an end to your weakness now. Send for my sensational free offer—good only to males between 13 and 75 in normal good health. This is the most time-tested, results-producing course of all time.

ABSOLUTELY FREE! MUSCLE-BUILDING INFORMATION ON HOW TO MAKE A HANDSOME BODY!

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Personal trainer of "Mr. America" "Mr. Universe" "Mr. Canada" perfect men title winners since 1936 — and over 2,000,000 successful pupils the world over!

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Trainer of Champions since 1936
25 Maple Street Norwood, N.J. 07648

Dear Joe: Shoot the works! I agree, that just like the champions before me, I want to be a New Man! Rush me your free muscle-building information that I can use right now at home to build a handsome body. I have checked the gains I want to make. I'm enclosing 25¢ to cover handling and mailing charges. I am under no further obligation in any way.

NAME _____ AGE _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____

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MAIL COUPON TODAY FOR FREE 32 PAGE COURSE!

NO OBLIGATION! NOTHING TO BUY!

Here's the kind of body I want (Check as many as you wish).

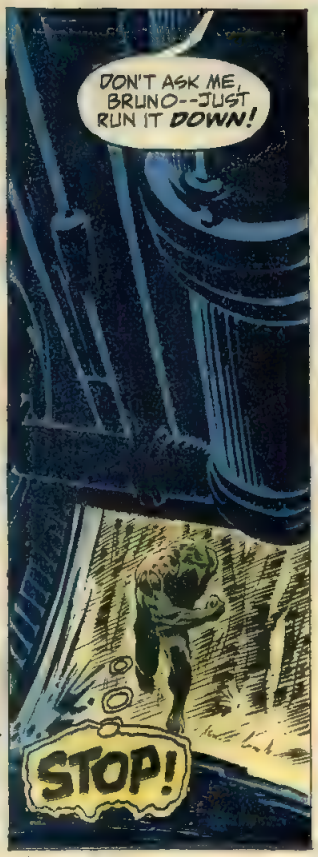
- ☐ Bigger arms
- ☐ Larger Chest
- ☐ Broader Shoulders
- ☐ Athletic Legs
- ☐ More Weight
- ☐ Lose Weight
- ☐ Magnetic Personality

LINDA... LINDA... IT'S MY FAULT... MY FAULT...
...IF ONLY I HADN'T GONE FOR THE DOG... IF I HADN'T TURNED AWAY!

THEN THE ROAR OF AN AUTOMOBILE CHURNING DOWN THE ROAD CUTS THROUGH THE SILENCE...

...AND THE MASSIVE MAN-MONSTER ANSWERS ITS GROWLING CALL...
KAWRAAW!

STOP!
F-F-FERRETT--! WHAT IS THAT THING?


DON'T ASK ME, BRUNO--JUST RUN IT DOWN!
STOP!

I SAID...

CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING

GET THESE DYNAMITE EMBROIDERED CLOTH PATCHES THAT TELL IT LIKE IT IS!

EACH GROOVY PATCH MEASURES 3". MADE TO SELL FOR MUCH, MUCH MORE. YOUR SATISFACTION IS GUARANTEED OR YOUR MONEY CHEERFULLY REFUNDED. ORDER NOW!

NOW ONLY 69c EACH FOR 3 OR MORE

75c EACH WHEN ORDERED SEPARATELY.
PAY ONLY 69c EACH FOR 3 OR MORE.

1. Peace Symbol

2. Stop

3. Psychedelic Love

4. Bunny

5. Survival (Ecology)

6. Gas Mask

7. Peace Flag

8. Peace

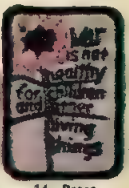
9. Life Symbol

10. Pollution Skull

11. Black Is Beautiful

12. Cobra

13. Help! I Need Lovin'


14. Peace Slogan

15. Life Slogan

16. Peace Sergeant

17. Woodstock Dove

18. Soul Power

19. Olympic Drinker

20. Roadrunner

21. Willy Coyote

22. Eye Spy

23. STP

24. Budweiser

25. All American Patch

26. US Flag

27. Confederate Flag

28. Flash Gordon

29. Chopper

30. Skull and Crossbones

31. Ecology Peace Flag

32. Popeye

33. Felix

34. Happy Face

35. Beatle's Sgt. Pepper

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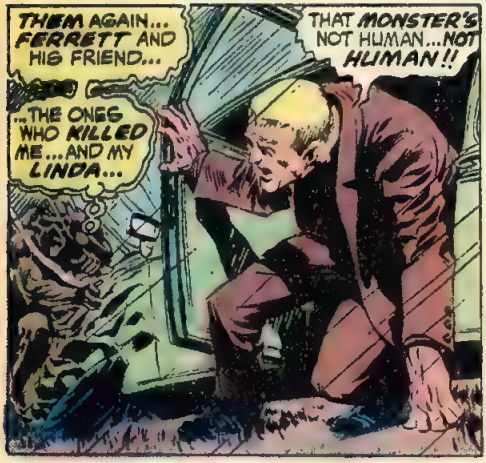
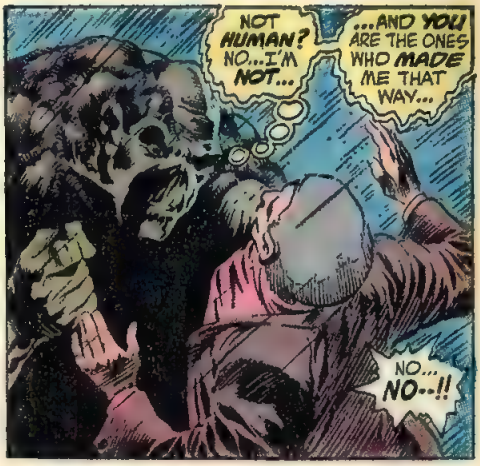
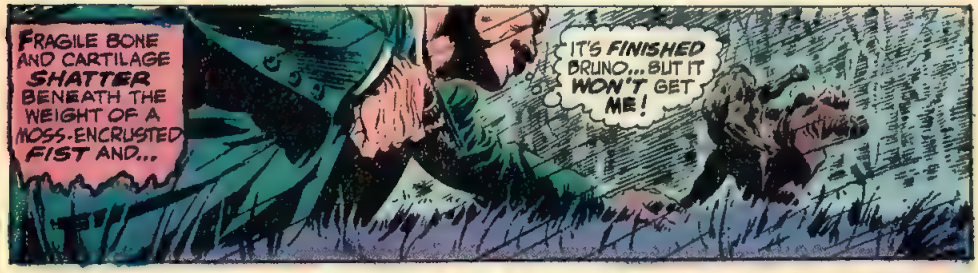

THEM AGAIN... FERRETT AND HIS FRIEND...
...THE ONES WHO KILLED ME...AND MY LINDA...
THAT MONSTER'S NOT HUMAN...NOT HUMAN!!

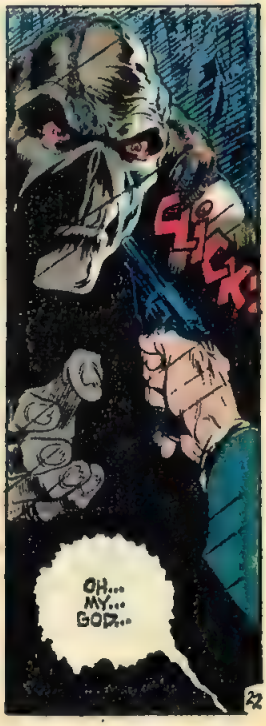

NOT HUMAN? NO...I'M NOT...
...AND YOU ARE THE ONES WHO MADE ME THAT WAY...
NO... NO--!!

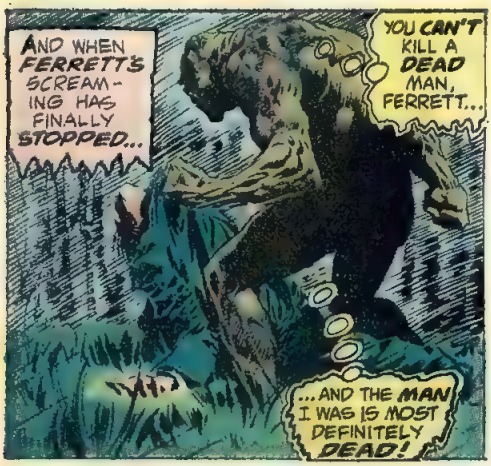

FRAGILE BONE AND CARTILAGE SHATTER BENEATH THE WEIGHT OF A MOSS-ENCRUSTED FIST AND...
IT'S FINISHED BRUNO...BUT IT WON'T GET ME!

ALL RIGHT, YOU FILTHY MONSTER--TURN AROUND AND FACE ME!
I WANT TO SEE THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES WHEN YOU--DIE!!
BLAM!

C'MON, MONSTER--DIE!!
WHY WON'T YOU DIE?
BLAM! BLAM!

DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE!
BLAM! BLAM!


CLICK!
OH... MY... GOD...

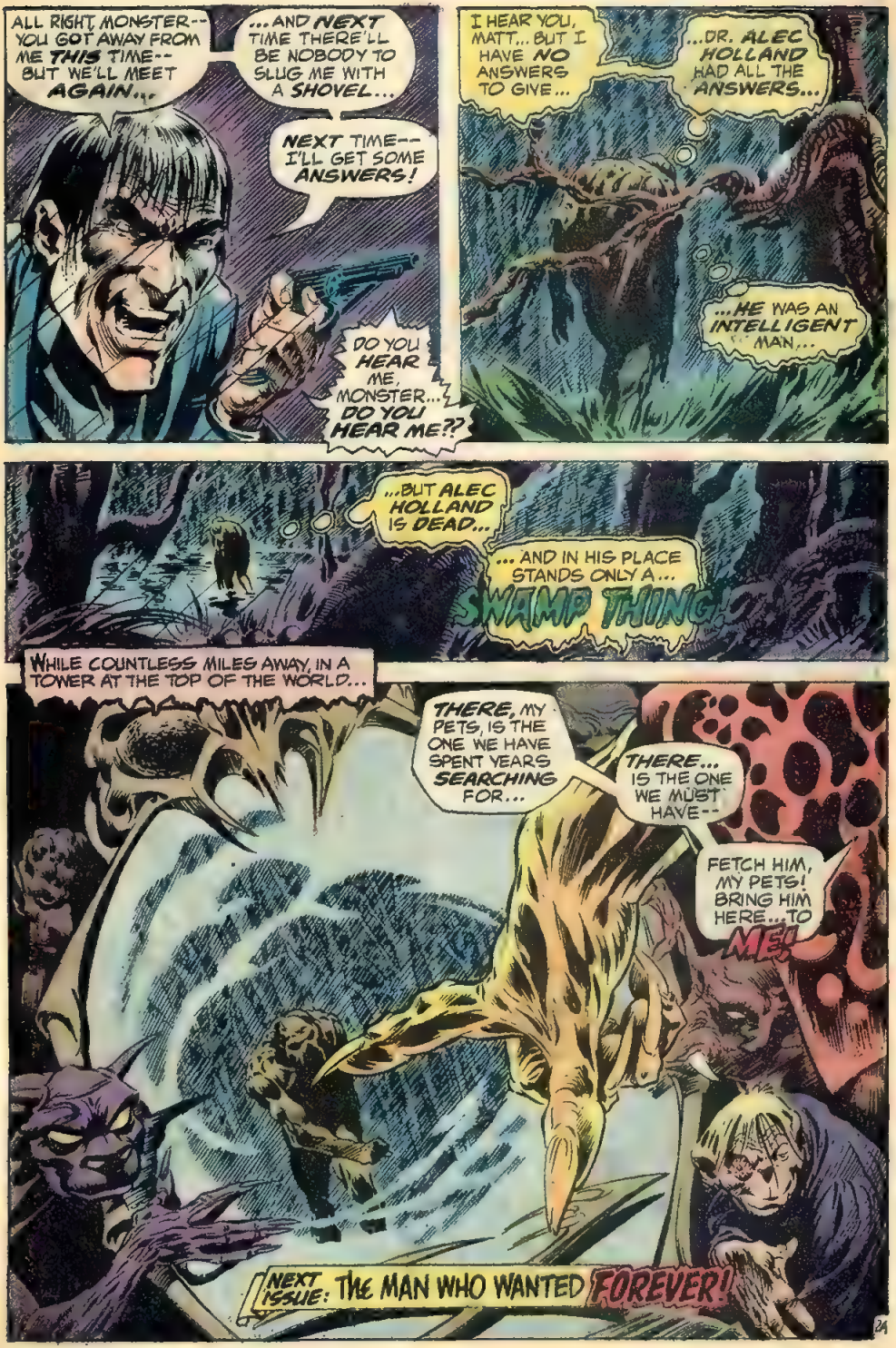

AND WHEN FERRETT'S SCREAMING HAS FINALLY STOPPED...
YOU CAN'T KILL A DEAD MAN, FERRETT...
...AND THE MAN I WAS IS MOST DEFINITELY DEAD!

MAYBE YOU'LL REST EASIER NOW, LINDA! MAYBE WE BOTH WILL--!
SNIK!
BLAM
HUH?

IT'S CABLE... THAT BLASTED FOOL! I'LL...
OKAY, YOU--YOU THING! HANDS HIGH!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST--FOR MURDER...
...AND YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

NO, CABLE... I'M AFRAID NOT!
MUCH AS I WANT TO...I CAN'T GO WITH YOU...

...AND, LORD HELP ME... I CAN'T TAKE YOU WITH ME!
COME BACK HERE, YOU MONSTER...
...COME BACK--!


ALL RIGHT, MONSTER-- YOU GOT AWAY FROM ME THIS TIME-- BUT WE'LL MEET AGAIN...
...AND NEXT TIME THERE'LL BE NOBODY TO SLUG ME WITH A SHOVEL...
NEXT TIME-- I'LL GET SOME ANSWERS!
DO YOU HEAR ME, MONSTER... DO YOU HEAR ME??
I HEAR YOU, MATT... BUT I HAVE NO ANSWERS TO GIVE...
...DR. ALEC HOLLAND HAD ALL THE ANSWERS...
...HE WAS AN INTELLIGENT MAN...
...BUT ALEC HOLLAND IS DEAD...
...AND IN HIS PLACE STANDS ONLY A...
SWAMP THING!
WHILE COUNTLESS MILES AWAY, IN A TOWER AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD...
THERE, MY PETS, IS THE ONE WE HAVE SPENT YEARS SEARCHING FOR...
THERE... IS THE ONE WE MUST HAVE--
FETCH HIM, MY PETS! BRING HIM HERE...TO ME!
NEXT ISSUE: THE MAN WHO WANTED FOREVER!

Coast-to-Coast Shortage of Trained Draftsmen Opens Thousands Big Salary Jobs for Beginners!

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SWAMP THINGS

J-1823

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What was once a man no longer exists. In its place is the creature. But within the creature still lies the man . . . altered, in both mind and body, but still conscious. The question is, however, will the creature eventually control the man, or the man, the creature?

That is SWAMP THING . . . an enigma . . . a puzzle wrapped within a mystery. And he waits for you to unravel the bits and pieces that make him what he is.

We think you'll find SWAMP THING a different kind of book; a book that pierces through t. vague shroud of the normal realm, and enters the world of the foreboding.

Where your mortal heroes fear to tread, SWAMP THING plunges through. Where reality seems to bend, SWAMP THING is there. Where Earth and Hell converge, SWAMP THING thrives.

Be with us each issue as SWAMP THING opens unexplored worlds . . . and trespasses beneath the shadows of the mind.

*****

SWAMP THING was created by the slightly warped minds of Len Wein, Berni Wrightson, and Joe Orlando. For fans of *House of Mystery*, his name may be remembered. A year ago the tragic story of a man turned monster called Swamp Thing resulted in the largest avalanche of mail that any mystery-gothic story had ever received. Lavish praise was heaped upon the story and art. And well deserved it was. The story received such wide appreciation, that ACBA, the Academy of Comic Book Arts, has nominated it for a Shazam for best story of the year. By the time you read this, the decision on the winning story will have been announced. Whether or not Swamp Thing is the winner, we are still pleased that it has been considered as among the best stories for 1971.

But just who are Len Wein and Berni Wrightson? What kind of persons are responsible for the effort that has gone into a book such as this? This, then, is the story behind the creators.

LEN WEIN:

Len was born in the Bronx on the twelfth of June, 1948. He lived most of his early childhood there until he was about six and a half, when his family picked up and moved to Levittown, Long Island.

Len went to school in Levittown . . . whenever he was up to it, that is. Not that Len played hookey, it's just that he was always in the hospital for one reason or another. It was during one of these stays in the hospital that his father brought him a stack of comics almost as tall as he was, and he began reading them. He was about nine at the time. He was immediately addicted to them.

In High School he was told that he had a flair for drawing, and from that moment on he decided he was going to become a comic book artist. He enrolled in the Famous Artist class for cartooning, and when he graduated High School, majored in advertising art at Farmingdale State College. While at Farmingdale he met a girl by the name of Glynis Oliver. More on that later. During his stay at College, Len met another comix fan, Marv Wolfman, and the two began a team-up. They decided to break into pro-comix together, beginning with an awful story for a monster magazine named "Castle of Frankenstein." From there they went up to National Comics. As their styles developed, the team split up, and Len went on to write The Phantom Stranger, Hot Wheels, Superman, Justice League, Star Trek, and many other comic stories. Oh yes, Len married Glynis Oliver (remember her?) in March of this year. They reside in Queens, New York with their two cats, named Nudge and Kvetch. For those interested, Glynis Wein also works at National as a top member of their production team.

BERNI WRIGHTSON:

Berni was born in Baltimore, Maryland on October 27, 1948. He remained there for most of his life, moving to New York during the summer of 1968.

Berni was a comix fan as a kid, and especially enjoyed reading the great E.C. line of comix. Asked why the E.C.'s interested him so, Berni replied that he liked them because he knew he was doing something he really shouldn't be doing. It was the gothic comix that particularly interested Berni . . . and perhaps the reason may be that his home in Baltimore is located directly across the avenue from a cemetery, where, rumor has it, he spent many a night prowling among the tombstones.

Berni always had an interest for art, though he never went to art school or took any special art courses. It was at the age of eleven or so when he first felt he put lines together well enough to become an artist.

Asked, who his idols in the art business are, Berni mentioned, Frank Frazetta, Joe Kubert, Howard Pyle and N.C. Wyeth among others.

Berni enjoys drawing, girls, and reading . . . particularly the Edgar Rice Burroughs adaptations by National which he calls "The most significant thing to happen to comics in ten years."

When asked if had anything he would like to say to the readers of Swamp Thing, Berni said "Tell 'em to buy BadTime Stories." For those in the know, BadTime Stories is a collection of stories especially written and illustrated by Berni Wrightson for that book. It comes highly recommended.

Now, what do *you* think of SWAMP THING? Send your letters to SWAMP THINGS, National Periodical Publications Inc., 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

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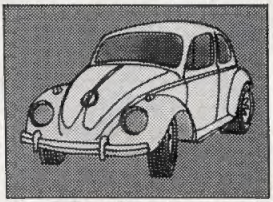

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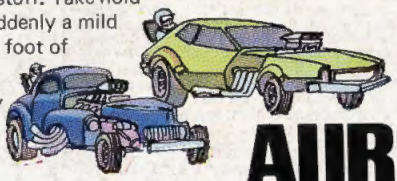

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